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TIDINGS



Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Missionary Fellowship (See page 38)

SECOND QUARTER

1966

AMERICAN BAPTIST BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION

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DIRECTORY OF THE BENGAL-ORISSA-BIHAR MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies
in Co-operation with the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention

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THE VALUE OF ONE—HOW MUCH?

by MISS RUTH FILMER

“Better late than never,” says the old proverb, and sometimes—not always—it is true. “Nothing worthwhile is easy,” runs another, and always it is true. But one thing we know, God’s time is neither fast nor slow, and with Him nothing is impossible.

The opening of our Ashram School proved later than we had planned, and we encountered far more difficulties than we had ever anticipated. The school actually began in September 1963 in the Leper Colony church building, but we looked forward to the time when this would once again be used only for a place of worship, and we would have a proper school building.

First we encountered difficulty in obtaining the land we wanted, and so the original site was abandoned and the school built on the same side of the road as the Colony. This, we can now see, is a far more suitable place than that for which we had first hoped.

Convincing the leper folk that this was their school, not only for the children, but also for the adult night school, and persuading them to give some voluntary labour wasn’t easy either; not really surprising when one remembers that one day’s work without pay may mean missing a meal. However, some had promised to be there on the day the walls were to be started, but at the appointed time no one turned up. So our District Supervisor, who had taken time from his already overcrowded schedule to help get the work started, and our Ashram school teacher went to work. Help soon arrived! One man confessed to me later, “We wouldn’t have gone, but when we saw the Pastor and the School-master swinging the mattocks we said, “Come on, let’s all go and help”. They didn’t come daily though, and perhaps our best helpers were the children. They carried water from

the nearby creek, tramped the mud into a nice sticky consistency and rolled it into balls, according, not to the size required, but according to the size of the little hands that shaped it.

I won't go into detail of the many set-backs and frustrations, the delay in getting the doors and windows made, the scorching heat, etc., etc., etc., only to say that at last the building began to take shape. "Dedication Service May 31st", we said, then moved to June, but in July the walls were finished and the doors and windows in place. Just a few more jobs to do and our school would really be finished!

Then on July 26th I woke to the sound of pouring rain. No wind, just a solid, steady downpour. This was Monday, my busiest non-leper clinic day, but, I thought, only the very desperate or the very foolish would venture out on such a morning. I doubted there would be any of the latter, hoped there need be none of the former, and settled down to some long neglected work.

Then suddenly a thought struck me—the school! If one of the herdas (low earth banks) bordering the stream broke, the school walls, which had not yet had time to harden, would be completely destroyed. Stopping to take only an umbrella, I set out for the Colony. I hadn't gone more than two hundred yards when I had to stop to wring water from my sodden clothing. Arriving at the school I was relieved to see that thus far no damage had been done, but, I thought, anything could happen if the rain kept up, so continued to the Colony to ask one of the men to watch. Just as I was about to enter the gate one of the men, bent double, head down under a tattered umbrella, dashed out. "I was just coming for you", he said, "the water's rising. We're afraid the Ashram will be flooded". True the water was rising, but I wasn't unduly worried. They, however, were. Several had all their belongings packed ready for a quick exit. One old half-blind woman bundled her few worldly goods into a basket and fled to the refuge of the church which stands on higher

ground than most of the Colony. I moved those from the houses bordering the creek to the far side of the Colony, waited for some time, then, as the rain showed signs of decreasing, returned home.

About two hours later, the rain had almost stopped, when the gate, which I purposely refrain from oiling because it does such good duty as a door bell, squeaked with more violence than usual and one of the Colony men ran up the path. "The whole Colony is flooded", he sobbed, "my house has fallen". I stared at him in horror. His house is on the side of the Colony farthest from the creek. Once again I set out for the Ashram, this time with much more speed than before.

The scene which I witnessed as I approached the Colony was one which will remain with me while memory lasts. White-capped waves dashed against the wall of the church—the place we had thought so safe—the convenient short cut from the leper village to the dispensary was completely under water—a brave soul waded it about six hours later and found it to be some five feet deep then. The village was completely vacated. The inhabitants, clutching their belongings, had by this time reached the road. Terror stricken, they ran, limping on crippled feet with a speed which would have been impossible at any other time, along the road and down the path that led to the dispensary.

Opening the dispensary and taking a piece of chalk from the Sunday School box I commenced to mark names of the goods given into my charge: bags of rice, bundles of clothes, sacks, baskets. One man, who earns a living doing rough carpentry work, thrust his box of precious tools into my hands. It wasn't long before the dispensary resembled a Central Station cloak room, and all the while I heard cries of, "The water is still rising!"

I realized afresh that day the complete desolation of being a leper. Scores flocked to see the swollen waters, but not one stopped to give a word of comfort or encouragement to the homeless group huddled on the dispensary veranda.

As the day wore on it became apparent that the waters were not rising and the people settled down to a long wait. Tears ran freely, taut nerves snapped quickly, and tempers flared easily. Tired children cried with fright and hunger. No one had the mind to eat; only with the greatest difficulty were any persuaded to do so. I forget how many times I tramped from house to Colony that day.

As night approached another question arose. Where to sleep? Some said that the water had receded from their houses now, they would go back, but knowing how quickly and treacherously wet mud-walls can fall I forbade them. The church and dispensary were the only safe places.

I'd almost forgotten the school, but by now a large chunk of wall had fallen. "If the rain holds off tomorrow, repair that wall", I told one man. "What if it falls again?" he asked dolefully. "Build it again", I retorted. "Yes," chipped in a voice, "as many times as it falls, so many times we'll repair it". I looked at his nearly blind eyes and fingerless hands, and thought afresh that we who are so blessed know nothing of real courage.

It was a pathetic procession that wended its way home next morning, and for days they trembled at every cloud, but hope and courage don't stay dead for long, and soon crippled hands repaired broken walls and fences.

I went to inspect the Colony Bamboo Garden which had been newly fenced a month before. The bamboos were all there, true, some leaning drunkenly and piled high with flood debris, but where was the new thorn fence? Walking barefoot through over twelve inches of oozy sand I found—or felt—some of the thorns, but the rest were probably miles away.

With a few more hindrances our little school building went on to completion. On August 20th with a gentle breeze tempering the hot sun, and a few woolly white clouds drifting in a clear blue sky, I joined with the Supervisor, school master, children and Colony folk as they marched down the road and three times

round the school to the accompaniment of drum and cymbals. Then with a thrice repeated shout of "Victory to Jesus", we entered the school for the simple, very beautiful Dedication Service conducted by the Supervisor.

It's an attractive little building, standing on the side of the road that leads into the Colony, with plastered mud walls, shining roof and dark green wooden doors and shutters. I'm glad it came into being, even though later than we planned, but does it surprise you that I'm not really interested in this school? Not, that is, as a building. I *am* interested, vitally, almost painfully interested, in the precious, beautiful young lives that read in that school. It's better that they confess Christ late than never, but better, far, far better, that they come to Him while they are young, and we work and watch and pray to that end. Will it be easy for them to make the break from their non-Christian homes and families? It will not, but with God nothing is impossible.

Most of these children could easily graduate from high school if given the opportunity. Some are college, and one or two even university material, but they will never have the opportunity of going beyond the Colony School, because even though the children themselves are healthy, the stigma of having leper parents will always prevent them from mixing freely with others. From a purely human viewpoint this is a discouraging, almost shattering situation, until I remember that a loving Father has numbered the hairs of each little head that bends over book or slate in the Colony School, and to Him they are of unspeakable value. Pray for us too, that we may learn, not only the value of the group, but of individual lives, each one of which cost the precious blood of God's only Son.

Oh teach me what it meaneth,
That Cross uplifted high,
With One, the Man of Sorrows,
Condemned to bleed and die.

Oh, teach me what it cost Thee
To make a sinner whole,
And teach me, Saviour, teach me,
The value of one soul.

Editor's Note. Ruth Filmer is an Australian Baptist nurse and is the only overseas missionary employed by the Christian Service Society, and supported by them, albeit on a much lower salary than that of A.B.F.M.S. missionaries. In every sense she is a missionary, as well as a C.S.S. worker. Her travels from Hatigarh to Jaleswar and out to other villages is done by bicycle. We think there are still missionaries serving under pioneer conditions! A Government officer after visiting at Hatigarh and seeing Ruth at work asked Dr. Osgood, "How does she do it?" His reply: "Dedication!"

“SISTERS”

by EVELYN MEDLEY

Maybe it could only happen in that no-man's land *at sea*, but on the voyage to the east we met. An American nun, a teacher going to Djakarta, a Swedish Salvation Army Captain, a nurse returning to Surabaya after an operation, a German nun, also a teacher, an Indian Methodist teacher returning to Lucknow, after taking a course in the U.S.A., and myself—a Special Service worker going to the Bengal-Orissa Baptist Mission—all of us were drawn together by our common vocation—to serve the Lord.

Grunhilde and I gravitated together without delay. We found much in common and her English was such that she even could joke in the English manner. We soon made the acquaintance of Mary and her mother. The mother had been much

amused by a little boy who had surreptitiously wet his hand and touched her arm to see if the brown came off. Among the nuns on board of varied nationalities and Orders, there was one whom it was impossible to pass by without exchanging a smile; she was so radiant.

The nuns gradually drew together. Although they could not speak each other's language, they had their common bond. In the evenings they would meet to sing and pray together, their sweet voices blending and rising above the throb of the engines. For our part, Grunhilde and I sang choruses from the Salvation Army Song Book.

The second night, the *very bright* nun invited us to sit and talk with her. She was a teacher returning to Djakarta. We had happy conversation and that evening three nuns, a Salvation Army officer, and the Special Service Worker joined in singing the words of 1 John 4.

The night was beautiful and later we watched the crescent moon sink into the sea, and picked out the constellations we recognized. It became a part of our evenings to sing and star-gaze. Then Mary, the Methodist teacher, suggested that we might ask the Captain if we could go on the Bridge one evening, above the glare of the deck lights, for our star-gazing. A letter was drafted and we waited eagerly for a reply. Two days later it came, "Be at the Purser's Office at eight o'clock". In great excitement we met: the Swedish Salvation Army nurse, the Indian Methodist teacher, the American and German nuns, and the Special Service Worker. Then we were escorted to the Bridge for a talk on the night sky in June, with charted illustration. As we gazed, the sky clouded, but our oneness in praise and wonder had brought us very close. Since those days together on shipboard, we have all been in trouble spots, but I trust each one is safe.

FAREWELL TO INDIA

by WILLIAM C. AND JANE G. OSGOOD

Dreams do come true, though the time gap may be considerable and the amount of sweat and tears between the dream and its realization considerable. Rarely does anything worthwhile come to pass except as God has made many people care enough to work together toward its accomplishment. The gifts and prayers of people at home, the long process of growing the leadership needed, and those influences which lead them to give their lives in service are all prerequisites. One of these came with the official opening of Nekursini Christian Hospital January 24th, 1965. Another came with the building of a church building, and the Church's separate organization and recognition, as part of Balasore District Union, at Panchkahania. The completion and dedication of the Ashram School building and the acceptance of the Ashram Church at the Leprosy Colony, Hatigarh into the fellowship of our District Union, and bringing Baripada Church into that fellowship, are all part of the dreams come true.

The completion of the second volume of a more than 800 page Bible Handbook, in Oriya, the first since 1880, has brought great satisfaction. This represents much work on the part of many people. The beginning of publication of Daily Vacation Bible School helps, in Oriya, and of a series of children's illustrated Bible story books, in Oriya and Bengali, will bring much help to future work. Organization and planned program for future literature give promise of continuance of publication that has produced some 80 books, in three languages, in the last eight or ten years.

The attempt to evaluate our schools, in the light of increasing costs and practically stationary budget from America, has stimulated some rather drastic cuts and new efforts to make them more truly Christian in impact. Re-thinking of the church and evangelistic program also should make for more local financial support and wider use of lay pastors. Some churches are attempting to do more for the support of their schools and other programs. The leper or Ashram Church has contributed more in relation to actual financial ability of the members than nearly any other group. Hatigarh Church is attempting to support additional classes to raise their school to High School level. If this can be done, while maintaining a deeply Christian standard, and be done on the basis of rural bias it will be most worthwhile, though it requires to be supplemented by some help from abroad.

One of the joys of preparing to leave after long service in India is seeing Indian friends, with whom you have worked, shoulder additional responsibilities in caring for work that has formerly been yours. Farewells and tokens of appreciation started at least 8 months before we expected to leave. Perhaps it is just as well that they come before the full burden of new responsibilities given to others is felt.

Participation in the usual and unusual administrative tasks, in terms of committee work, on local, state and national levels has taken much time and energy. Serving on the Christian Literature Service Association and the Board of Christian Literature of the National Christian Council, at a time when plans for the forward thrust made possible by the Christian Literature Fund (a \$3,000,000 world effort) are taking shape, gave encouragement for the future literature program. Acting as Vice-President of the Utkal (Orissa) Christian Council, and Secretary of the Utkal Christian Literature Board; member of the Revision Committee working on the Oriya Bible; closing a nearly 16 year stint as member of Serampore College Council; serving for

a brief time as Acting Executive Secretary of the Christian Service Society, and presiding officer of the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention gave many interesting contacts and opportunities for service.

Part of each missionary year are visits like those of Dr. and Mrs. Morong, Dr. C. Jump, Rev. A. F. Merrill, Miss Violet Rudd, Mr. Wm. Jarvis, Dr. and Mrs. O. E. Daniels of the Canadian Baptist Board, whose comings and goings bring opportunities for consultation, inspiration and planning of much value.

Participation in Lay Training Conference, in Young People's Institute, in Sunday School Teachers' training Conference, Pastors' Wives' Retreat, in area Women's Conferences and Association or District church meetings, plus a number of visits to individual churches, gave additional opportunity for Bible teaching and spiritual contacts.

A vacation stay of 18 days in the excellent Welsh Mission Hospital in Shillong and the short Pakistan-India war, plus Chinese intransigence on the Northern borders, shortages of supplies from cement to kerosene, sugar and flour, added interest to a busy year.

Just before the close of the year all the evangelistic and pastoral workers of the Orissa end of the field gathered for special 2 days Conference for fellowship, Bible study and inspiration, planned by themselves, to give us opportunity for further fellowship with those with whom we have shared the responsibilities of the work for so long.

Weekly Bible classes, interrupted far too often by outside responsibilities, have continued to be a joy and a stimulus to preparing a program for wider use in the churches. How greatly the teaching ministry of the church needs strengthening and lay people need to be prepared to be the church in the world!

We had the joy of having the whole of Jaleswar Church to a Christmas dinner, with over 100 guests, and then of spending

Christmas and a few more days with the Weidmans at Bhimpore. We closed the year in Hatigarh, scene of our longest service in India, begun more than 37 years ago, getting the place ready for a new couple, expected to move in sometime during the year. Services in the Ashram Church and the Hatigarh Church brought joy to our hearts. The leper people have so little and yet inspire us always with their giving and optimistic outlook on life.

As we leave India for service in the States, for getting re-acquainted with our family and friends, we shall leave a part of our hearts in India. The friendship, love and inspiration we have received in abundant measure over the years will remain to bless us in the future. Our prayers shall always be that India may come to know the peace and joy which comes when we give our lives in obedient, loving service to the One we love and serve.

THE MISSION GIRLS' SCHOOL, BALASORE

by MISS SUSANNE POWERS

A meeting of the Baptist Women of India met at Balasore at the beginning of last year. In preparation for the visitors, the Hostel had been white-washed and the woodwork painted. Fifty paise (approx. ten cents) is taken from the Hostel girls' fees each month for repairs. From this fund we were able to install fluorescent lights in the four cottages. Meeting new friends from Nagaland, the Garo Hills, the plains of Assam, Kohima, the Lushai Hills, and South India was a real joy. We learned much from each other as we shared experiences in our work and told what women were doing in these different areas.

Visitors from abroad are always welcome. Dr. and Mrs. C. Morong were with us for a few days in January 1965. They, and also Dr. and Mrs. Paul Sturges of Massachusetts, spoke at our chapel services. Miss Violet Rudd, Director of the Women's Work of the A.B.F.M.S., spoke to the Women's Society at our church. At dinner at my house she was able to meet teachers and Christian leaders.

Mrs. Evelyn Medley, who joined our Mission staff for work in the Treasurer's office, visited Balasore at the same time as Rev. A. F. Merrill, Regional Representative from Valley Forge. Mr. Merrill addressed our Primary School, which has an enrollment of 409, and also spoke to our Girls' High School student body, which has an enrollment of 359. Mrs. Medley taught the younger ones in English, "Jesus Bids Us Shine" and for the school girls sang the Lord's Prayer, the words of which they knew in English, having learned them at our school prayers. Their visit coincided with our bi-monthly teachers' birthday party. Since Mr. Merrill's birthday was within the months celebrated, the teachers sang to him and he also had a candle on his cake. Our last visitor of the year was Mr. William Jarvis, Treasurer of the A.B.F.M.S., but he had only one day in Balasore.

During the year, I was able to visit several villages where I had not been before. Some of the Hostel girls and I went to the homes of four of them; three being in completely non-Christian villages. This was the first time that messages based on the Bible had been given in these places. I want very much to go to the homes of all of the eighty girls who live in the Hostel, so that some of them can conduct "family prayers" in the Christian homes, and tell of Jesus Christ in the non-Christian homes. Before I leave for furlough in May, 1966, I hope I shall have visited the homes of the Class Ten girls. The others will have to wait until my return. In addition to the villages included in the above, we also went to Gopalpur, Nilgiri, Betnoti, Mitrapore,

and Ujurda for a day or more and had meetings with both Christians and non-Christians.

I attended both the Half Yearly Meeting of our Convention for the Orissa end of our field, held at Panchkahania, and at Baripada, and the Annual Meeting of the Nine Churches at Amdhia. In September I helped in the Annual Sunday School Convention at Jaleswar, and also in the Youth Conference there.

Our School

Both the *Primary School* classes—one to five—and the Girls' High School classes—six to eleven—have increased in numbers. All nine teachers of the 409 children in the Primary School are Christians. The large enrollment has made it necessary to use all available places, which means our H.S. craft room, when there are no classes there, one store room, and the large hall; two classes being held in the latter. The primary children know many Christian choruses in English, Oriya, Hindi, Bengali, and other languages. They look angelic as they kneel in their morning prayers and sing a prayer song, but during recess, as they run and shout and play, this look has gone.

With 359 girls in the *High School* there is much work to be done. Our Headmistress, Miss Tarulata Garnaik, is doing a marvellous job in keeping everything running smoothly. The Senior Class, with 35 girls, was the largest we have ever had. Twenty-nine of them passed the State examination. As their studies had been interrupted in October-November, we were pleased that the results were way above the average for the State. The girls received the silver cup for being first in the marching competition on January 26th, Republic Day. The annual prize-giving program was presided over by the Additional District Magistrate. Along with other items, it included the English play "Daniel", and Scripture verses in action. Of the 17 teachers on the H.S. staff, 14 are Christians.

A Student Council was formed in 1965, and this has been a help to the School. The president, a Hindu girl in the junior class, is very eager to do things. The Student Council obtained articles for the school magazine and organized it. They invited a guest speaker and held a program for Teachers' Day, which is observed on the birthday of the President of India. The Hostel girls put on a play for the students and the Student Council sold Rs 111.00 worth of tickets. This group, plus the senior girls, sponsored a good film and sold tickets worth more than Rs 1,000 (a little over \$200). The Rs 987 profit, plus the profit from the play, and a day's wage given by many of the teachers, was sent to the Government for defence.

In March 1964 the Government had given a grant for a new science building, but as it was not sufficient, I was told to wait until there was more money before building. However, when I was asked to return the grant to the Government if the building was not started in March 1965, we began to build. With God's help and a good fast mason the work was completed within the grant. Now an American friend has given enough for us to build a veranda and also a store-room for the science equipment for which the Government has also given a large grant.

Our Hostel

The Hostel has grown to over 80 girls, of whom 30 are from Hindu homes. Bindubasini Behera, our experienced matron, has cared for the girls well. Their singing at prayer time, mornings and evenings, reaches our house. In August 1965, Kunja Basini Nayak, our physical training teacher, became the assistant superintendent of the Hostel, and in January 1966 became superintendent.

This past year our Christian Home Festival was held in March and the girls had special meetings with Christian leaders each evening. They attended the church prayer meeting and

women's meeting. A "love feast" get-together was held. They also conducted Sunday Schools in seven Hindu villages.

As many new girls came to the Hostel in July, the beginning of the school session, a common kitchen and dining hall was necessary. Without any money grant, we called our faithful mason and he and his helpers began. The girls realized this was *their* building, so they helped carry bricks and sand, mix cement, carry it to the top of the building, etc. We've also made shelves, so that each girl can keep her own plate, glass, and other things locked. In October the girls invited the mason and his laborers plus all the 120 girls and others on our compound for a prayer of dedication, followed by a feast.

Another great help to the Hostel has been the construction of a gate-man's house in which our new hostel gardener-cum-messenger lives with his family. This was completed in February from a "fund I found". This house has lessened my work considerably. Formerly the relatives of the hostel girls brought snacks, clothing and letters to my house and asked me to give these things to the girls. Without having written down the name of the girl to whom things were to go, they expected me to remember. I would explain that we had many girls in the hostel and to remember things for each one was beyond me. Now everything is given at the gateman's house and it is a real relief to me.

One of Lillian Brueckmann's orphan girls was married on March 17th. She had been a hostel resident for many years, so the girls all helped her to get ready for the wedding, and enjoyed all the activities connected with it. The following day I drove the bride and groom to their home in the village of Ujurda on a road "that will go right to our front door". However, before reaching our destination, the station wagon settled down in a rice field.

Medical examinations or check-ups were given to all the hostel girls in August by Dr. Sulata Garnaik of our Nekursini Hospital. She is a sister of our Headmistress.

Balasure Christian Student Movement

The number of college students in the S.C.M. has increased. The annual camp of the All-Orissa Christian Student Movement met in Balasure in September and created much interest. About 35 college students from Cuttack and Puri attended. The girls were accommodated in our Hostel, while the boys were at the Boys' High School. The students did the cooking and serving of meals in our Hostel. The meetings were held in our High School and in the Church. Speakers came from Cuttack and some of us from Balasure also helped in the program. An afternoon at the Bay of Bengal was enjoyed by all. For the dedication service on the last night we sat around a camp fire. Testimonies were given and then Mr. Skillman helped us to form a cross in the field.

Our Balasure group meets twice a month at some student's house for prayer and twice for regular meetings. These latter are usually held in the Girls' High School or in my house. In December the Church Committee invited us to hold English services in the church twice a month. This has taken the place of the regular meetings. Some Christian Government workers who don't understand Oriya, coming from some other state, join in these meetings.

A SHORT VERSION OF THE ADVENTURES OF THE MISSING FRIG.

by EVELYN MEDLEY

- June 16. New York Docks—all packages on board—except the refrigerator.
- June. A.B.F.M.S. . . your refrigerator was delivered in time to be shipped to Naples and should be there June 29th.
- July 8. Inter-Mission Office, Bombay . . . your refrigerator is being forwarded . . . to arrive in Bombay Aug. 10, most ships arrive late because of the rain, this also might be late.
- Aug. 4. I.M.O. to American Express. Please arrange clearance of crated refrigerator. I.M.O. to E.M. Please send landing certificate, passport and list of contents.
- Sept. 2. I.M.O. to E.M. We were wrongly informed of the arrival of the freighter carrying your refrigerator . . . now expected in Bombay Sept. 11, please complete forms of Declaration in the presence of your District Magistrate and return to us.
- Sept. 21. I.M.O. to E.M. Yesterday we received news . . . offloaded at Nassawa, ETHIOPIA . . . will endeavour to have it trans-shipped . . . will ask Am. Ex. to return your passport as the arrival of this refrigerator is now uncertain.
- Sept. 23. AM. Ex. . . we are returning your passport.
- Sept. 17. Shipping Co . . . be informed that your cargo has been discharged at Massawa and the carrier's obligation ceases by this discharge . . . regret inconvenience we remain, yours faithfully . . . !

Oct. 1. Shipping Co ... have now decided to reload discharged cargo for delivery at Indian ports.

Oct. 20. Telegram. Send passport for clearing frig.

Press DOCKERS BOYCOTT FREIGHTER.

Press BOYCOTT CONTINUES. Taken up at diplomatic level.

Dec. 2. I.M.O. ... freighter has sailed ... just checked your sad case ... cannot locate frig. Am. Ex. to Freighter Co ... formal claim for loss of frig.

Dec. 7. I.M.O. To-night I have news for you ... frig. found in a corner of a shed behind 500/800 tons of copra ... order given to bring it out tomorrow.

Dec. 15. I.M.O. Dear Mrs Job ... dent in the door.

Dec. 17. I.M.O. ... quite unusable until repaired.

Dec. 28. Am. Ex. to Port Authority ... please reconsider Rs 214.26 demurrage charge.

Jan. 3. Am. Ex. Dear Madam ... glad to inform you ... have cleared refrigerator through customs ... repaired and in good order. (Comment, E.M. This sure looks hopeful!)

Jan. 28—Feb. 5

As I passed through Kharagpur on my way to live in Balasore the frig. was in the station being trans-shipped. It completely bypassed my stay in Midnapore. Three days later it was at my door, a little battered by the further journey but soon put right and in working order, so, for the present, its adventures are over.

“COME YE APART”

by ETHEL N. ROADARMEL

It's the most beautiful compound in our Mission. In some countries it would be called an estate, with its extensive grounds and beautiful trees, and the long, winding entrance from the road to the Mission residence, where the Osgoods have lived for the past five years. Bill had the dream of this as a training center for Christians, especially of the Orissa end of our field. But it has become the center for most of our training conferences for Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar. This lovely estate was acquired more than a hundred years ago. The residence would hardly be considered modern, or even conveniently planned, but Jane and Bill have lived there happily and their home and hospitality has been enjoyed and shared by many people.

One large veranda, close to an Indian style kitchen, serves as the dining hall for delegates to meetings, and as a meeting place evenings when the weather is suitable. One large room the Osgoods set aside which could be used for meetings, when needed, and for the display of literature. This can also be used as a dormitory bedroom. Two other houses were built under Bill's supervision; one to accommodate women and one for men.

As one approaches the compound from the road, coming from the direction of the railroad station, the little Jaleswar church is the first building that comes into view. Near the church are the graves of pioneer missionaries, and the plot at the rear of the church is used as a Christian cemetery.

On April 2nd some twenty-six wives of Baptist pastors, nurses from our Hospital at Nekursini and dispensaries, and

missionaries came apart from their busy lives for three days of fellowship and inspiration. *The Pastor's Wives and Nurses Conference* had as the key verse for meditation Psalm 116:12 "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?"

For the forty-five minute devotional period each morning we divided into groups by language. Mrs. P. Karmakar led in Bengali, Miss P. Tudu in Santali, and Mrs. B. Mondol in Oriya. An outline had been prepared ahead of time for these leaders by Ethel Roadarmel with the key verse in mind.

A helpful and practical Bible study from the Book of James was conducted daily by Rev. Bhupati Sahu, Supervisor of the Balasore Branch Society work. There was a half hour each morning of Scripture memorization and of singing, and another period of learning new songs before the evening meeting. One afternoon Miss Satyaboti Behera gave a review of the book, "Take My Hands", telling effectively the story of Dr. Mary Verghese of Vellore Christian Hospital.

Each evening we walked a short distance to the river, where at this time of year there is more sand than water. Sitting in a circle on the sand and facing the setting sun, we held our vesper service. Lightning in the distance and a strong wind with some rain sent us hurrying back to the Mission compound one evening.

Mrs. Edward Benedict from the Lee Memorial Methodist Mission, Calcutta, was our guest speaker. This was not her first time of meeting with our Baptist women, so she was known to a number of them, and she is a close friend of our missionaries, who stay at the Lee Memorial Guest House when in Calcutta. The three messages that Helen gave in an informal manner were greatly appreciated. Each one was practical and helpful, and centered around the key verse. "*What shall I render to the Lord?*" We were reminded that people often bargain with God, saying if you will give me what I ask for, I will do this or that

for You. This is not the kind of a God we have. All belongs to Him and His gifts are freely given. Our love for God is not based on His gifts, but on what He is; we love Him for Himself. Emphasis was placed on the first commandment: "Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind", "and upon the second," "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." "The love and forgiveness of Christ reveals Him as God's Son, not His works. It is essential for us to love and to forgive; to love others as God loves us. Whatever our work, it is God's call. "Whatsoever you do in my name, you do unto Me."

At the close of the last evening meeting special appreciation for the years of service of the Osgoods and Roadarmels was expressed and gifts presented, in view of the fact that this would be their last attendance at this conference before leaving for the U.S.A.

Preparation of meals was planned and supervised by Rev. Robinson Singh, Supervisor of the Hatigarh-Salgodia Branch Society. Always he can be counted upon for this important part of conferences held at Jaleswar.

Due to a general strike being called for April 6th, which would mean no available transportation, the program was rearranged, so that all could leave by the 5th noon. For three days we had come apart and our minds had centered on God's gifts to us and we knew clearly what we should give to Him. We left refreshed in body and soul.

‘‘OPERATION MOBILIZATION’’

by REV. ARCHIE SHEAR

Pastor, Union Church, Kharagpur

To those of you who have passed through military discipline, or have had the experience of conscription, this title, no doubt, sounds like preparation for an assault. It speaks of military stratagem and action that purports a forward advance with expectation of victory. This is exactly the spirit in which a team of young enthusiasts in God’s spiritual army entered the city of Kharagpur on January 26th and remained with us until Monday, January 31st.

This may be a new name to you, or you may be thinking it is just another Christian organization. But one of their number said to me: “We are not missionaries, although we have a great mission, but we are *learners*. Daily we are learning to look to the Lord for our needs, for moment by moment guidance, and constantly we are learning, at the feet of the Master, His way in seeking the lost”. In the true meaning of the word, however, we consider them as missionaries—those sent by the Lord.

Operation Mobilization is essentially a student movement, among those who have experienced the forgiving mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ, to go forth and reach the present generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ *through Christian literature*. Years ago in Spain some young people, burdened first of all for their own land, banded themselves together in an effort, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to evangelize Spain through literature. This they undertook, but the burden grew greater. God soon thrust them out of their Jerusalem into Samaria, and “into the uttermost parts of the earth”. Today “Operation Mobilization”

has already gone through its beginnings by completing much of the mobilization, and is now operating. Many young people have come to India and have reached the major cities with city-wide campaigns of distributing the Word of God through literature and tracts, and offering Bible correspondence courses.

Some members of the team at Kharagpur. There was an American Diesel engineer who had had a successful business career in the States, but felt that was not the true purpose of living. He was convinced that he should serve Christ by taking the Gospel to those who had never heard. Another member of the team was a Welshman who had had a brilliant record as a professional boxer. His ambition had been to get to the top of the ladder in this profession. As he shared his testimony with us, he said that whereas once he used to shadow box, now he is in the real battle—"against principalities and powers and the rulers of darkness." There was also a young Englishman who had devoted his all to the Lord and found great joy in preaching, and driving the motor van, filled with tons of Christian literature, across the dusty roads of India. In this team we saw a vivid illustration of how the Gospel breaks all barriers of pride and race.

In Kharagpur. During their brief stay here, there was much stirring in this rather lazy railway city. The market place had men bustling around with Gospel portions for sale. The blare of a public address system could be heard proclaiming the truths of the Gospel and presenting the claims of Christ. Many of the hitherto unreached nooks and corners were combed by these young men, along with the assistance of other Christians in the town who caught their enthusiasm and burden.

For the evenings we had special meetings in the Kharida Christian Center. Slides of the work of "Operation Mobilization" were shown and Christ was preached. The gatherings were well attended and many were challenged by the fact that hitherto we had done so little for the Master.

On Sunday evening they ministered at Union Church. Prior to the evening service we asked those who were interested in preaching the Word to join us in the afternoon at three o'clock. Many of our older young people, along with some of the teenagers, came. Including Christians of another group, there were forty of us in all. That afternoon as we went out we saw the spirit of the Lord do great things and some hundreds of Gospel portions were sold. It was a triumphant band of disciples that returned to the manse to give praise to the Lord for His working.

One of our own young men, Morris John by name, was so challenged by this type of ministry that he has since joined the team to preach the Word in this manner. We would request your prayers for him. We of the Union Church fellowship have been having blessed times with the Lord in our youth meetings, but our hearts' cry has been: "Lord, take any of us and use us for Thy glory". Out of such a prayer has come the first fruits of realization. At present Morris is with the team in Bihar visiting some of the steel cities. The operation to these steel cities has been called *Operation Steelmen*. They intend to visit Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Rourkela, and Bhillai. These towns are known as the Ruhr of India.

Open Air Services. As a result of the visit of this "Operation Mobilization" in Kharagpur, the Lord has challenged our own fellowship in Union Church. We began to pray and to tarry for the Lord's guidance. No sooner had we done this than He gave us His direct command to go out and tell to all the wonderful news of redeeming grace. Now every Sunday at 2:45 p.m. we gather for prayer at the manse. Then, after having a cup of tea, we go out into different parts of the city to proclaim the Gospel through open air preaching. Each Sunday we have an average of ten people joining us, who come and sell Gospel portions and hand out tracts. We have been out regularly for the last six Sundays. By God's grace we hope to continue as long as the Lord leads. Many a time the response has been good.

Other times Satan has been aroused and caused trouble but always the Lord has been the victor.

We are praying that these open air meetings will be held more than once a week and that other churches will join us in this united effort to make Christ known.

At a time when literature is being used to win the allegiance of many to a particular cause or political party, or for propaganda of one kind and another, we should claim the power of the printed page to win minds and hearts to the lord Jesus Christ.

MY FRIENDS, THE OSGOODS

by MISS SATYABOTI BEHERA

When I began my first missionary work as a colleague to my beloved friend and sister, Lillian Brueckmann, some twenty-eight years ago, I became acquainted with the Osgoods and their children. At that time I was a shy young girl and did not have much to say. Whenever Lillian and I arrived at the Osgood's home in Hatigarh, with or without advance notice, we received a very warm welcome, good food, a comfortable bed and enjoyed real Christian fellowship. This home I called our Resting Place. One day Lillian and I, after walking nine miles, arrived with heavy hearts and tired bodies. At the door we were greeted by Mrs. Osgood with a cheerful smile and kind words of welcome as she received us into her home. Immediately we began to feel better, and with the comforts she provided we soon felt refreshed.

Through the years my friendship with the Osgoods has deepened. We knew we could trust these friends, and so could unburden our hearts to them, and share our problems and our thoughts. Lillian and I made our headquarters at Hatigarh, and she, too, later had her home there.

We used to have wonderful times together at the Christmas season. Often the Osgoods would ask me to tell the Christmas story to the children at the Leper Colony or at the Girls' Hostel, where there were orphan girls to whom Mrs. Osgood was like a mother. I used magic lantern slides to illustrate the story of Jesus' birth and His life.

The Bible says, "A cheerful heart is like good medicine." Beloved Mrs. Osgood helped us by sharing her happy and cheerful spirit with us. She was always a very active and hard worker in her home, and in the church. She was faithful in attending and helping in planning our Women's Meetings and Conferences. At first she thought that she did not know the Oriya language very well, but this last term at Jaleswar, with a brave heart, she started a Bible study class for the young married women. Now her Oriya is very good.

Dr. Osgood had many responsibilities. How could he do so much? The Lord was his helper, and his wife was always an inspiration and help to him. She spent many hours typing articles, and reports for him, and writing letters, and also helped him much with Mission accounts.

When the Osgoods first went to Hatigarh they did not have a car. They lived in this village without the comforts of city life. Travel had to be done on bicycle or by bullock cart. Much later a car was provided for them.

I think of them as my pioneer friends. We have a saying, "Those who sow the seed while crying, can cut the grain while smiling". Now the Osgoods can see the ripened grain, in the area in which they have served, before they leave India. What is this ripened grain? At the Leper Colony at Hatigarh a church has been established. There is a Sunday School, a night school, and a clinic, and some are turning to the Lord and accepting Him as their Saviour. Two other churches have also been established—at Mohulboni and Panchkahania. During the past year they have seen tribal people following Christ in baptism at Manicka-

danga. Young men and young women now working here and there were helped to receive an education and to know what it means to be a follower of Christ.

It is a heart-breaking experience to have these friends of so many years leave this land where they have served for some 37 years. But we know that the Lord God Almighty is with us who remain and with the ones who go, and "underneath are the everlasting arms." Now, I am no longer shy. I am at home with these friends and we have talked much together. Some day I shall meet again with them at the Heavenly Resting Place. When they arrive there, I know our Lord will say to them, "Blessed are you, my faithful servants. You have been faithful in little things. I will give you great things. Do share the happiness of thy Lord."

AN APPRECIATION OF MISSIONARY FRIENDS

by ETHEL N. ROADARMEL

How often this year have we heard the lament, "I don't know what we will do without you folks and the Osgoods". A recent letter from a missionary on furlough echoes the refrain: "Oh, how we will miss you folks and the Osgoods! It just won't be the same; it just won't seem right. Nobody can take your places!" Of course, this is not literally true, but the fact remains that we are at an all-time low in missionary personnel, with only Mrs. Medley and four couples on the field, after the "oldsters" leave. Our two single "gals" on furlough leaves no one from the W.A.B.F.M.S. for about a year, and at present no one under appointment to strengthen their numbers.

True it is that the Osgoods have something more than 37 years of experience behind them, having come to India in Oct. 1928 two years after the arrival of the Roadarmels, and that the many responsibilities that Bill and Jane have shouldered are being given into the hands of several people, both missionary and national. In many respects India becomes home after so many years and it has seemed as if we would always have Jane and Bill to serve on committees, work with the Christian Service Society, be available for advice, and to welcome us into their home.

The Osgoods are among the fortunate ones who have been located at one place for many years, so have deep roots in Hatigarh. However, they have also lived and served in other places for shorter periods. Upon their arrival in 1928, with their toddler son Fred, they went first to Balasore and began the study of Oriya. After a few months they moved to Santipore (now Hatigarh), but it was not long before they were requested to take the English work in Jamshedpur during March and April, '29 so that the Roadarmels might attend Bengali Language School. Their adaptability was evident in these early days when a bit later they were requested to stay on in this work, so that the Roadarmels would be free to continue their language study. On June 17th of that year their daughter Janet was born. Jane was ill for some months after this. By the end of August the Roadarmels had packed their belongings and left for Contai.

The arrival of Rev. and Mrs. Luman Marsh in the fall of 1930 for the work in Jamshedpur made it possible for the Osgoods to return to Hatigarh in January of the next year. In '32 there was another move to Balasore. Bill had passed both his first and second year Oriya examinations. That year in March a second daughter, Luella Lee, was born in the home of the Brushes in Kharagpur. In December the family moved back to Hatigarh where they lived until taking up residence this last term in Jaleswar.

Bill's statement in his report of 1932, as printed in *Tidings*, might well apply to all the years of his service in India: "Care of property on the number of old buildings and type of buildings in this field takes considerable time and energy". The way work had to be carried on in those days is in contrast to what is done today as evident in a paragraph from Osgoods' 1934 report: "Having to travel twenty, thirty, forty, or even fifty miles on foot or bicycle day after day in all sorts of weather over rice embankments, jungle trails, through sand, mud, water in tropical rains or sun; hours of routine work poring over reports and accounts; work as overseer of property repairs and construction; preparation of messages and literature in a foreign language, and all the infinite variety of cares and responsibilities that fall to a missionary's lot as father confessor, employer, judge, teacher, pastor and friend all go into the accounting."

There was no car for the use of the missionary in Hatigarh during those years. At a time when Jane was seriously ill she was carried on an Indian rope bed the 8 miles to the river. Before they could get across in a country boat, the train they had wired Roadarmels they would take had pulled out. Circumstances made it impossible for her to be admitted to the Railway Hospital at Khargpur, so after being seen by a doctor, and a night at the Mission house, Jane was taken by stretcher to the station, and the train she and Bill boarded was met by a stretcher and ambulance to take her to a Calcutta Hospital.

The family had the usual, but also the unusual illnesses their first term, with the children having whooping cough and Jane having typhoid. There were not the drugs and vaccines now used. The way the Osgoods faced the difficulties of their first term set the pattern for the future of their service; overcoming all in the strength which the Lord gives, and being sure India was within His will for them. We have had the joy of their personal friendship and understanding over 37 years. Many young women give thanks to Jane for her "mothering",

for helping them to go on with education and training, and even for finding husbands and arranging weddings. She is an excellent typist and has been of incalculable help to her husband with this ability and also with her ability to do accounts. She has been Editor of *Tidings*, Chairman of our Missionary Fellowship, and has served on many committees.

Their youngest son, Gilbert, was born in Oct. '42 in Khargpur. The Osgoods stayed in India during World War II, so their second term was nearly ten years, with a brief "furlough" in the hills.

The development of the leprosy work at Hatigarh has been due very largely to the efforts of the Osgoods. At one time the work was closed down because of lack of funds. But the following year the clinic was reopened.

When they returned from their last furlough in late '60 they again lived in Balasore, but only until the Mission house at Jaleswar could be repaired and somewhat remodelled for their occupancy. Here, under Bill's direction a center for Christian training has been developed and throughout the year many Conferences, and training Institutes, as well as other meetings are held. Jane's weekly Bible study class for married women has been carried on effectively with great interest shown by the women.

Bill has served on so many committees of the Mission and the Christian Service Society that I will not try to name them. It is quite truthful that no one person could carry all the responsibilities that he somehow has been able to manage. He has served as Mission Secretary, Chairman of Missionary Fellowship, been Property Adviser, a member of the Utkal (Orissa) Christian Council, a member of the Serampore College Senate, Chairman of the Literature Committee, etc. He has done more in the field of vernacular literature than any other person in our Mission. In the Osgoods' "Farewell to India", and Satyaboti Behera's

“My Friends, the Osgoods”, appearing in this issue of *Tidings*, there is a further glimpse of what the Lord has accomplished through these servants of His.

But it is not primarily for the committee work of the Osgoods, nor for their service to the churches and schools, nor for their literature work, etc., that they will always be held with love and respect in the hearts of their missionary colleagues and Indian co-workers and friends, but for their personal interest in each individual, for their readiness to help in every time of need, for the hospitality of their home, and for their devotion to the cause of Christ throughout the whole of our Bengal, Orissa, Bihar field, and their deep spiritual life and allegiance to the Master of their lives.

As Bill said in one of his reports, “Missionary service is not only a vocation, but also an avocation.” Truly it involves the whole of one’s life and every day and every hour of the day. I quote from a report given by him 24 years ago, which is characteristic of both Bill and Jane. “We look to the future with confidence, knowing that though we are insufficient, with Him there is power and strength and wisdom for our need”. And,

“Naught can affright us on Thy goodness leaning
Low in the heart Faith singeth still her song
Chastened by pain we learn life’s deeper meaning,
In our weakness, Thou hast made us strong.”

Farewells, with words of appreciation and gifts for remembrance, have been given over a period of months at Conferences, Missionary Fellowship, and churches where they have made their final visits. Bill especially treasures the leather bound copy of the “Bible Handbook” in Oriya presented to him by the Utkal Christian Council, in appreciation of all the work he put into making this Handbook possible, and a copy of the Oriya

Bible, also leather bound, presented by the Literature Board of the National Christian Council.

As we bid them farewell we are grateful that distance cannot alter friendship and that prayer can always span the miles. We thank God for them and His use of them and pray His guidance for the years ahead. They are not "retiring", but only moving to another field of service.

TRIBUTE TO A SERVANT OF GOD

by REV. L. C. KAU

The grave stood open and the rough, raw soil of the grave was piled on both sides. A solemn group had gathered in this stately grove of Sal trees, bright in their yellow and green of spring. Pastor Sotish Tudu gave a closing benediction on the life of the outstanding minister among the Santals in this past 40 years. Rev. Ram Chandra Murmu had passed from our midst. His ministry had covered a large area over a span of years. From where we stood we could see off in the valley and across to other hills where village churches were located five to twenty miles away. These he had been serving right up to his sudden death.

On March 6th he was in the Kora churches annual woman's meeting at Chitrapator Church. As he was concluding his message his speech began to falter, but he went ahead preparing the communion when he suddenly sat down and collapsed. He was taken in an unconscious state to a nearby dispensary and the next day on to the Midnapore hospital where he passed away on the 14th without regaining consciousness. His sons came and we took his body 85 miles out to his home in the hills of Bihar.

Over the years we have shared in a ministry together in this area. I have enjoyed the welcome of his home and felt as one

of the family. With these close ties to the family it was a heartbreaking experience to bring his body back to his wife and friends. Later, when all was ready and people had gathered from several villages, we went to the church for our memorial service and to give thanks to God for the gift of this life. The church which we had built together a few years ago, was filled with those to whom Ram had ministered. Most of them he had baptized during these years of ministry.



RAM CHANDRA MURMU

Back in 1922 Ram and his young wife Salome reached a momentous decision. They would become Christians. They were the first in their village to take this step. Such an action was daring; it not only meant being ostracized but the possible loss of life. In this strongly and closely knit tribal society the concept of "once a Santal always a Santal" could mean that the family would rather see him dead than to have him leave their society, which becoming a Christian would certainly mean. Her family immediately siezed her and took her back to their village. While they were discussing what to do to prevent this disaster, Ram came looking for his wife. During the ensuing discussion Salome slipped away to wait for Ram in the jungle. When they saw that Ram persisted in his determination, the son of the village headman offered to sacrifice his life in that he planned to kill Ram and it would be quite likely the police would

in turn pick him up for murder. At this point Ram decided it was best to leave and went out of the village another way. He and his wife met and agreed it was time to finalize their decision by being baptized.

Shortly afterwards armed search parties were after them. As they hid in the jungle one party passed near by on its way to the railway station to try to cut off their flight. They searched other villages along the way in an attempt to locate them. After a night with some friends they fled across country 40 miles to Bhimpore where they were baptized. Now that they had no home they stayed for a time with Christian friends at Chukripara. Later Ram studied at Bhimpore school and then went on to Bible School. Afterward he became a full-time minister. His experience with Christ was so stirring that Ram could not restrain his witness for the Lord. There was no doubt in his mind that God was with him and caring for them.

The Spirit has spoken through him to turn scores of families to Christ in this area. In this new and once rapidly growing area no one has been his equal in reaching people. He endured strenuous physical hardships and danger to preach the Gospel, often cycling 40 miles in a day to minister to this large, scattered parish. At times he has had the help of two or three local pastors, but for the most part he has had to carry the responsibilities for the ministry. There are now eight churches in this area. The existence of these is a tribute of what God can do through a dedicated man with a fire in his soul.

Now as a last testimony we stood quietly in this grove, fragrant with Sal blossoms, paying respect to an outstanding minister, a servant of God, a dearly beloved friend and fellow worker. In this moment of heaviness of spirit the words break through again as a sun penetrating through the mists, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live. . . ."

As we returned from the grave his wife spoke with me briefly. There was no longer any strain of grief in her words. She asked me when he had passed away and then said, "I thought so, because at that time it was evening and quiet in the house and suddenly there was a sound of a passing breeze and a radiance surrounded me; then it was gone and I knew that he had come for a moment". Ram has heard the words of our Lord, "Well done thou good and faithful servant . . . enter into the joy of thy Lord".

EXCERPTS FROM GENERAL LETTERS

"In the Hostel at the *Mission Girls' School, Balasore*, there are 78 girls of whom 20 are from Hindu homes. All live happily together under the care of our matron, Miss Bindu Behera. Miss Kunja Nayak, our school gym. teacher has been learning the Hostel accounts and Superintendent's work, so she can take care of these during my furlough in the U.S.A.

Formerly the girls cooked their meals in four separate hostel cottages. But with the increase in numbers it was felt a common dining room and kitchen was needed. The Hostel girls realized there was no money to build, so all girls—from the three high school seniors to the one first grader, from the girls of high priestly Hindu caste to the tribal girls—helped carry bricks and sand, mix cement, make cement slabs for the ceiling, etc. We sang and joked as we worked together. The matron and the 10th grade girls had charge of the dedication service and prepared a feast also for all the laborers and the folks living on the compound".

SUE POWERS, Balasore

"Construction has become a big part of our daily life at *Nekursini*. Since January more cement has been available, especially for hospitals, and so we have been able to move ahead on some of the urgently needed buildings. We have finished a

duplex apartment for staff, and started a house for another doctor. A guest room for our house is being built, and the new out-patient building in memory of Lillian Brueckmann is under construction. Miss Brueckmann, who died in October 1964 at her home in Kansas, was very instrumental while serving in India in laying the foundation for the medical program of our Mission.

One part of our work recently that has been especially rewarding is that of our mobile clinic. Each month five members of our Hospital staff pile in the jeep with medicines, laboratory equipment, dressings, instruments, and a good supply of our family-planning 'loops', and then go to one of our five village dispensaries for two or three days. There they see patients, handle any special problems the resident nurse has waiting for them, and in the evenings give a program for the whole village, using slides relating to health problems, and a story from the Bible. When it is time to return, somewhere in or on the overloaded jeep, we find space to bring back a patient or two whose condition requires hospitalization. It has been good for all of us to learn that we can still give good medical care and treatment even out of the confines of the hospital".

DR. AND MRS. ROBERT R. LARSEN

Cover page

This picture was taken at our Missionary Fellowship Annual Meeting which was held at Lee Memorial Mission, Calcutta, Jan. 24-27, 1966, as reported in *Tidings*, First Quarter, 1966. *Left to right, front row:* Mrs. Tracy Gipson (S. India Mission), Jane Osgood, Pat Weidman, Teresa Weidman, Timmy Weidman, Sue Powers, Ethel Roadarmel, Evelyn Medley. Miki Jo Larsen beside her mother Norma who has Karolee in her arms, Bill Osgood, Kami Larsen (hides her father), Rev. Tracy Gipson, Burt Weidman, Louis Kau (half hidden), Bud Skillman, and Roady (C.C.R) make the second row. Wilma Kau and Jan Skillman were unable to attend.

OUR PRAYER CORNER

"Be happy in your faith at all times. Never stop praying. Be thankful, whatever the circumstances may be". 1 Thess. 5:16-18. Phillips' Translation.

We have learned that some use this Prayer Corner in their private or family devotional periods each day. This is a habit all subscribers might follow and so share in prayer with Bengal-Orissa-Bihar missionaries in the concerns for this part of the Lord's work.

Sunday: As a visa for return to India is now being processed by Government, pray that at both the State and Central Government levels approval may be given, so that Maureen Briens may be available again for work in the Santal villages in 1967. Maureen is the only one of our missionaries who is able to use the Santali language.

Monday: Thanksgiving for those who at Easter showed their allegiance to Jesus Christ by taking the step of baptism. Pray that they may be effective witnesses to Him among their non-Christian neighbours.

Tuesday: For students in our School hostels that through the Christian emphasis there they may grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ and understand what it means to be a true Christian.

Wednesday: For your missionaries in Bengal-Orissa-Bihar service—only four couples, and Mrs. Medley—while our two single women are on furlough, unless we get recruits—that wisdom may be given to know, in the midst of many needs and opportunities, what work should be given priority day by day, and how to maintain good health.

Thursday: That through the distribution and sale of Christian literature, and Gospel portions, there may be increased understanding of the Christian faith, and that the Holy Spirit may make clear the claims of Jesus Christ and His power to transform life and meet man's deepest needs.

Friday: That young people both in the U.S.A. and here in India in our own area may be ready to respond to the need for Christian service.

Saturday: For Christian national workers shouldering heavy responsibilities, many doing the work formerly done by missionaries, that with the reduced staff of missionaries on our field, they may not become discouraged, but may find increased joy in their work, knowing that the Lord will enable them to do what He has placed in their charge.

NEWS ITEMS

Rev. Ram Chandra Murmu, Pastor and supervisor for the Santal villages under our Christian Service Society, passed away at the Midnapore Government Hospital on March 14, 1966, following a stroke which occurred on March 6th while he was conducting a communion service for the Belda Women's Conference. Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife, and the members of his family. (See page 34)

* * *

Rev. Bahadur Kisku has been appointed pastor of the Ward Memorial Church, Kharida, Kharagpur.

* * *

Mrs. Evelyn Medley was appointed Mission Treasurer as of March 1, 1966, by the A.B.F.M.S., to take over from Rev. C. C. Roadärmel. The office was moved from Midnapore to Balasore on April 14th, as prior to that accommodations had not been found for Mr. Chittranjan Samanta, the clerk-accountant and his family at Balasore.

Rev. C. Louis Kau has been appointed Field Secretary taking over this work from Mr. Roadarmel as of April 1st. He has also been asked to serve as Property Adviser for the Christian Service Society and the Mission in place of Dr. W. C. Osgood. We regret that he has to take on these responsibilities which of necessity will limit his village work, but the shortage of staff makes this inevitable.

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Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Osgood will be in Oregon by the time this is read in the U.S.A. They left Calcutta by plane on April 30th for Beirut and thence to the Holy Land for five days, with a short stop at Athens before proceeding to Washington D.C. for a visit with their son Fred and family, who live in Springfield, Va. Until a more permanent address is given, they may be addressed in care of Dr. Osgood's brother Dr. S. B. Osgood, 4584 N.E. 35th Ave., Portland, Oregon.

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Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel expect to leave India about December 1st for retirement. They will spend some six weeks in Thailand and so have Christmas with their son Norman and his family before going on to California, and Florida for visits with their other children before taking up residence in Ohio for at least one year.

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Mrs. B. E. Weidman, succeeds Mrs. Roadarmel as Editor of *Tidings* and *Mrs. Robert R. Larsen* will be Associate Editor, beginning with the third issue of this quarterly, 1966.

* * *

Miss Susanne Powers left by plane *en route* to the U.S.A. for furlough on May 6th for Bangkok. Her journey which will be just a bit less than one month in duration will take her to Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Manila, Hong Kong, Taipei, Tokyo, Honolulu and Los Angeles. She can be addressed c/o A. B. F. M.S., Valley Forge, Penna. 19481.

Clara Dorn Carlson and her husband Verlon Carlson announced with great joy the arrival of a baby daughter on February 19th, 1966. She is called Kimmie, but her full name is Kimberley Lisa Carlson.

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Miss Elsie Kittlitz is enjoying living at the Nugent Home. Her address is: 221 W. Johnson St., Philadelphia, Penna 19144. In a letter to the Roadarmels she wrote: "If you think retirement lets you be lazy, just get over that idea now. It doesn't. Or else I am lazy and that is why I am always snowed under with letters, calls, etc. Perhaps it means that folk who have the habit of being busy and occupied don't know how to be really idle". Elsie hopes any one from India visiting Valley Forge will plan to get in touch with her.

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Gilbert Osgood, younger son of Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Osgood, graduated from Linfield College in June.

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Miss Beatrice Ericson is serving in the First Chinese Baptist Church of San Francisco. After only a little more than a week there, she wrote: "I feel 'at home' again working with these wonderful Chinese people." She succeeds Miss Astrid Peterson. Her address is: 767 Jackson, Apt. 10, San Francisco, California 94133.

* * *

Miss Satyaboti Behera has been chosen as one of five Christian women in India to attend an international Assembly of Christian Women in Tokyo, Japan in July. We rejoice in the response that has come from many of our churches, and especially the Women's Societies, in raising the necessary money to meet the share of expense assigned to our Christian Service Society.

Clifford Kau, eldest son of Rev. and Mrs. C. L. Kau has enlisted in the U.S. Marines, choosing aerial photography as his field. At present he is located at San Diego.

Vacation Plans

Mrs. Evelyn Medley will be at Kodaikanal in S. India from early May to mid-June, boarding at Swain House where there will be a number of our S. India missionaries.

Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel have been granted a somewhat longer respite from the heat and will have nearly two months, at Edgehill, Landour, U.P. where their children used to attend school.

Mrs. B. E. Weidman will make a home for Terry and Davey who have been in Boarding at Woodstock School since early March, taking Timmy with her from the plains in early May for several months. The family will have their daddy with them from late May for five weeks.

Mrs. C. L. Kau, with her four children, who are in India, is making a home for them at Landour where she is teaching Larry by the Calvert Course from the U.S.A. while the other two boys attend Woodstock. Ina, who graduated a year ago, will be going to the States for college this year. This family will also be joined by their daddy in late May.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Larsen with their three girls will be at Kodaikanal in May, and early June.

Rev. and Mrs. E. L. Skillman and their two girls are at Landour where Teri Leigh attends school. They are studying Oriya, and part of the time will be able to attend Oriya Language School.

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper "Tidings" to be published in the first issue every year after last day of February.

FORM IV

(See Rule 8)

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I, Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

MRS. C. C. ROADARMEL
Signature of Publisher

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